



"To protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing landowners and citizens through education, land management, and on-the-ground projects."

150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste. A, Oroville, CA 95965 * (530) 693-3173 * bcrcd@carcd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

**Location: Klamath Conference Room
202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA 95965**

Or Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85961204034?pwd=UjNORGpQMmRxTGJENetiV2Z4QzBPZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 6120 4034

Passcode: 555329

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice-Chair Allen Harthorn, 9:06 am
2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** –Vice-Chair Allen Harthorn serving as chair, Treasurer Colleen Hatfield, Director John Christofferson, Associate Director Mike Crump, District Manager Thad Walker, Staff Wolfy Rougle
3. **REVISIONS TO AGENDA** (only emergency situationsrequiring the need to take immediate actions may be added as action items pursuant to Gov. code 549954.2(b))

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-action items)**

(1) (3 min. limit per speaker/topic, 15 minutes/person/meeting total) (2) Public comment is encouraged. Any member of the public may address the Board with any comment related to the Resource Conservation District's areas of concern.

*However, no action can be taken by the Board on such items at this current meeting. The Board may direct staff to agendize such items for consideration at a future meeting. (3) *Please note that all action items will have time set aside for public comment prior to the vote occurring. After a motion*

is made and seconded by two BCRCB Directors, the Chair will first ask for any further discussion from the Directors and

Associate Directors and then Chair will open up the item for brief public comment limited to 2 minutes/person. After the public comment period closes a vote will be held.

5. CONSENT AGENDA: Project Updates (see board packet). John asked to pull all Consent Agenda items and move them to the end of the meeting for discussion.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the BOD meeting held 10/21/2021- Allen Harthorn. John moved to accept the minutes after correction of typo on item 7; Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously
- b) Review and approval of financials/ Audit Update - Colleen Hatfield – John moved that bills payable will be those shown in white, plus Evan Watson #5, LSL once audit is approved; and to Sierra Institute invoices #s 3,4, and 6 once transfer from SNC advance acct -7633 is approved; and McCombs dated 9/23/21; and PWI dated 10/7/2021; and invoices 2021-33 and -44 to Tim Keesey; and \$50 monthly tech stipend to Cait Bell; and 2021-22 #1 invoice to Sierra Nevada Alliance. Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
Audit update: Final exit interview has been completed for FY 2018-19 audit, our very capable new bookkeeper was able to sit in. No surprises in the list of recommendations and all of them are issues BCRCDC and bookkeeper have already been working on. Final report will be received mid-Jan. After that, next step will be to confer with BOS and decide whether we will be able to proceed with audits every third year or whether audits will be required annually. If the latter, our next step will be to audit FY 2019-20.
- c) Teleconferencing Requirements of the Brown Act (as amended by AB 361), Resolution - Thad Walker – John moved to approve the resolution as submitted, Colleen seconded, resolution passed unanimously
- d) Employee Insurance coverage through SDRMA -John Christofferson – Allevery dropped employee liability coverage in November, forcing BCRCDC to find a replacement coverage. SDRMA’s existing policy covers loss up to \$10,000 for BCRCDC employees. (After that, loss would be split between SDRMA and BCRCDC, with BCRCDC’s limit of liability being \$210,000 – unless we submitted an affidavit from an attorney familiar with labor and liability law sanctioning BCRCDC’s action. John stated he feels this coverage is fair, but requests a sit-down conversation with attorney Greeson in the County Counsel’s office to understand whether that office would be able to take on this role for us.) Complicating matters, SDRMA does not consider BCRCDC staff to be full employees – rather they are *leased employees* from Allevery or perhaps *co-employed* by Allevery and BCRCDC. If staff are leased employees, they are covered under SDRMA’s policy above per a recent SDRMA email. However, if staff were *full* employees, SDRMA coverage limits would be far higher! This will be a recurring agenda item.
- e) EPLI insurance consideration -Colleen Hatfield – See d)
- f) Procurement Policy Review/ Update- Thad Walker – District Manager recommended some updates to our procurement policies to bring them into line with similar RCDs that do similar type and scale of work to BCRCDC today. Proposed updates would require a competitive bid process only above \$50,000 and would allow project managers and the District Manager to sign off on smaller projects under certain circumstances (with Board Chair concurrence for items in the middle range).
John felt Dave Lee should be part of the discussion and recommended tabling this until he is present. Colleen seconded, item tabled by unanimous consent.
- g) Agreement with MCRPE for cultural education - Wolfy Rougle – Colleen moved to approve the agreement, John seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- h) CEQA Notice of Exemption for Connie Darrington fuels reduction, My SierraWoods -Thad Walker – John moved, Colleen seconded, NOE approved unanimously.

- i) Agreement with Butte County Fire Safe Council for Technical Forestry Assistance for Cal Fire Forest Health Grant Project- Thad Walker – Through BCFSC’s Forest Health grant, a number of implementation projects were awarded with BCRCO forestry staff providing technical oversight using a fee-for-service structure. This agreement could span up to 3 years based on the anticipated projects. John moved, Colleen seconded to approve the agreement, motion passed unanimously.
- j) Advance Request for Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant for Colby Mountain Project SN1279-RT -Thad Walker – John moved to move ahead with the advance amount of \$66,300 and to deposit it in a new, separate interest-bearing account. Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- k) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, December 16th at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA95965

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- a) Staff Updates – Despite all the fires, funding delays, and finally a last-minute storm that dropped 14” of rain in 48 hours, Dixie Rd Improvement Project is now finished! Implementation has begun on Concow Resilience Project. Due to private landowner denying access for now, planting units 5 and 6 will be dropped from that project (contract is flexible enough to allow this) and oak release in Section 34 of USFS lands will proceed in 2023, buying us more time to secure access. Wolfy will get parcel #s to John so he can research easements that might not be apparent to an untrained eye. John commented on the Watershed Plan that liability solutions for burning is a major unmet need in the State so far. Brayton Slough restoration is virtually finished (RiverPartners will maintain for an additional year using a separate funding source). Upper Park Rd will be the primary roads focus for the RCD this winter and spring. Butte House Meadow assessment is complete and planning documents will not be drawn up. Implementation grants could be sought next year.
- b) Directors’ Reports – Allen discussed appointing a 5th director with Supervisor Todd Kimmelshue. John strongly encouraged Mike Crump to become a full director and praised his experience and dedication so far. At least 1 other prospective director is interested but has not shown up to a BCRCO meeting so far.

8. PARTNERS’ REPORTS (5 minute limit per group)

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - None
- b) Butte County departments - None
- c) Community groups and agencies – Friends of Butte Creek and RiverPartners will be submitting a joint restoration grant to remove an old haul road and haul bridge, remove 10,000 lbs of asphalt already fallen into the creek; bank modifications; stream channel improvements; other improvements. FBC has also been invited by WCB to submit a concept proposal (due mid-Jan) to increase streamflow in Butte Creek by renegotiating diversions above the lahar formation. Discussions have been ongoing with PID and with Kami Loescher (new Director of Butte County Dept of Water and Resource Conservation). There is also an opportunity to send Table A water to meet Butte Creek needs. FBC will seek a letter of support from BCRCO in December. John observed that Thermalito Irrigation District seems to have excess water that could be looked at. The Rice Commission and an Emmy-award winning director have put together a documentary called “Sharing Butte Creek” in which Allen was interviewed. It’s airing on Sacramento public TV and opens a discussion about further projects on Butte Creek.

Motion to adjourn – John moved, Colleen seconded, meeting adjourned at 11:18 am

9. CLOSED SESSION – Directors only

a) Personnel Discussion

10. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report

11. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: The Butte County Resources Conservation District (BCRCD) distributes its Board meeting agendas electronically at least 24 hours in advance of meetings. If you would like to be added to, or removed from, the email list, please notify the Butte County RCD at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122 or by email to: bcrd@carcd.org. The BCRCD also publicly posts notice and agenda of meetings 72 hours in advance of meetings at the Butte County RCD office located at 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville, CA. **Reasonable Accommodations:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Butte County RCD Manager at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122.

Please note that all action items will have time set aside for public comment prior to the vote occurring. After a motion is made and seconded by two BCRCD Directors, the Chair will first ask for any further discussion from the Directors and Associate Directors and then the Chair will open up the item for brief public comment limited to 2 minutes per person. After the public comment period closes, a vote will be held